

REMARKS

Claims 18 and 22-36 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 18 and 35 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration based on the amendment and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Telephone Interview

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Mulvaney in the April 20, 2010 telephone interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

II. The Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 18-23, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Best (U.S. Patent No. 5,510,164); and rejects claims 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Best in view of Nee (U.S. Patent No. 6,544,616). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed upon during the telephone interview, Applicants amend claim 18 to recite, *inter alia*, that the inorganic material is a "zinc-based alloy including tellurium." Applicants respectfully submit that Best is directed to tellurium alloy, and not zinc, and that therefore Best teaches away from a zinc-based alloy by emphasizing tellurium-based alloys. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have arrived at Applicants' claimed zinc-based alloy based on the disclosure of Best which relates only to tellurium-based alloys. Nee fails to remedy this deficiency in Best. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

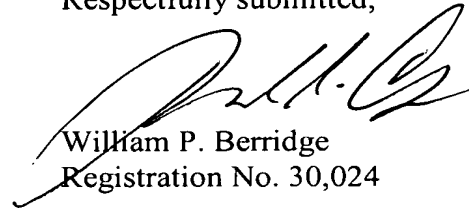
Further, Applicants respectfully request consideration of claims 35 and 36, as discussed during the telephone interview.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:RAC/amt

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 22, 2010

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